

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 034819

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INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS

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TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: BASIC ISSUES AND STANDARDIZATION: ANTI-TANK
WEAPONS

REF: USNATO 0559

1. THERE APPEAR TO BE AT LEAST THREE MAJOR OBSTACLES TO
INCREASED STANDARDIZATION IN WEAPON SYSTEMS IN NATO:

A. NATIONAL INSISTENCE THAT WEAPON SYSTEMS BE TAILORED
PRECISELY TO NATIONAL SPECIFICATIONS.

B. THE ADVERSE IMPACT ON BALANCE OF PAYMENTS (BOP) WHEN
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PAGE 02 STATE 034819

BUYING SYSTEMS FROM AN ALLY, AND

C. THE LOSS OF DOMESTIC DEFENSE INDUSTRY EXPERTISE AND
EMPLOYMENT WHEN BUYING FOREIGN SYSTEMS.

2. WHEN SYSTEMS SUCH AS ROLAND II AND DRAGON ARE DEVELOPED
WHICH GENERALLY MEET COMMON MILITARY REQUIREMENTS, WE
BELIEVE LICENSING ARRANGEMENTS OFFER PRACTICAL OPPORTUNI-
TIES TO INCREASE STANDARDIZATION WITHOUT SERIOUS IMPACT ON
BOP OR DOMESTIC EMPLOYMENT. LICENSING ARRANGEMENTS MAY
REDUCE, BUT DO NOT ELIMINATE, DUPLICATIVE R AND D EFFORTS
AND DO NOT OPTIMIZE ECONOMY OF SCALE PRODUCTION OPPORTUNI-
TIES. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THE BENEFITS OF STANDARDIZATION

THROUGH LICENSING ARRANGEMENTS WILL OUTWEIGH THE LOST
OPPORTUNITY FOR THOSE IDEAL, BUT AT TIMES UNACHIEVABLE,
OBJECTIVES. IT MAY BE DESIRABLE TO OFFER LICENSED PRO-
DUCTION IN EUROPE OF DRAGON WHEN FEASIBLE TO DO SO.
HOWEVER, SUCH AN OFFER AT THE PRESENT TIME WOULD BE
PREMATURE SINCE WE HAVE NOT YET SELECTED THE US CONTRACTOR
FOR LARGE SCALE PRODUCTION. SUCH SELECTION IS EXPECTED
IN MID TO LATE 1976.

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